

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 198, 203-204, 213-214, 216, 219-220, and 222-223 were previously pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-197, 199-202, 205-212, 215, 217-218, 221 and 224-240 were previously canceled without prejudice. Applicant herein amends claims 198, 203, 213, 216 and 223; and submits new claims 241-243. Consideration and examination of pending claims 198, 203-204, 213-214, 216, 219-220, 222-223 and 241-243 are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that independent claim 216 has not been specifically rejected by the Examiner in the present action.

I. Present Application Entitled to Priority Date of December 22, 1993

In Applicant's response of April 11, 2005, Applicant argued that the Kara reference (5,822,739) is inapplicable, given the earliest priority date of December 22, 1993 for the present application and the cancellation of dependent claims referencing "postage". In the subsequent office action dated September 23, 2005, the Examiner asserted a double-patenting rejection only, and did not maintain any rejection involving Kara. Applicant obviated the double-patenting rejection in the response dated October 17, 2005, by submitting a terminal disclaimer.

In the present action, the Examiner has again cited Kara in support of Section 103 obviousness rejections, but does not discuss Applicant's prior assertions of priority or the reasoning behind the return of Kara. If the renewed citation of Kara was an inadvertent oversight, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections based on Kara be withdrawn in view of Applicant's priority

arguments of record. Otherwise, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify the reasoning for denying Applicant's priority.

II. Objections to Claims 203, 213 and 223

The Examiner has objected to claims 203, 213 and 223 based on informalities. Applicant has amended claims 203, 213 and 223 accordingly to obviate the Examiner's objections.

III. Rejection of Claim 198 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 198 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery (5,454,038). Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons. Cordery fails to teach or suggest, let alone anticipate, continuing to verify authentication over time.

Cordery performs an initial authentication when a mailing list is first being transmitted by the mailer, but Cordery does not verify authentication after that point. In contrast, as amended, claim 198 of the present application recites "wherein said server system is configured to continue verifying authentication over time while processing a request to transfer said item having value." Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 198 is allowable over the cited art.

IV. Rejection of Claims 203-204, 213-214, 219-220, 222-223 Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 203-204, 213-214, 219-220 and 222-223 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Cordery (5,454,038) in view of Kara (5,822,739). Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

As stated in section (I) above, Applicant submits that Kara is inapplicable art given the priority date of the present application. The present rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 should therefore be withdrawn.

Further, because claims 203-204 and 213-214 are dependent upon an allowable base claim (i.e., 198), claims 203-204 and 213-214 are also allowable for at least the reasons provided with respect to claim 198 in section (III) above.

Similarly, Applicant submits that claims 219-220 and 222-223 are allowable as being dependent upon base claim 216, for which there are no pending rejections.

In addition, with respect to claim 216, 219-220 and 222-223, Applicant has amended independent claim 216 to recite "continuing to verify authentication over time." As discussed in section (III), the prior art does not teach or suggest continuing to verify authentication over time. Thus, Applicant submits that independent claim 216 and respective dependent claims 219-220 and 222-223 are allowable over the cited art.

V. New Claims 241-243

Applicant submits new claims 241-243 for consideration; no new matter is presented. Claims 241-243 are dependent upon allowable base claims 198 and 216; thus, Applicant submits that claims 241-243 are allowable as well for at least the foregoing reasons.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's pending objections and rejections are obviated. Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be timely issued for pending claims 198, 203-204, 213-214, 216, 219-220, 222-223 and 241-243.

Respectfully submitted,

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Todd N. Snyder May 15, 2006
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